



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

February 2016

There's homosexual, heterosexual, metrosexual, hypersexual, too. Now, I learn of "sapiosexual" and that is one who finds intelligence the most sexually attractive feature. I'm guessin' that only women would be sapiosexuals. Men, on the other hand... And that's according to the Keith Urban dictionary. Didn't think that country and western singers would have that much to contribute to the lexicon, but, why not. Oh, I've just been informed that it's the "Urban" not "Keith Urban" dictionary. Never mind.

Been seeing a banner ad recently that always puts a smile on my face. Apparently you can now get an MBA from Concordia University called the John Molson MBA! Isn't that rich? Apparently you earn this MBA in the marketplace—yeah, right, you mean the pub? I'll confess to not having followed the links to get more details, but this is wonderful news for the great many of us who already have our Molsons undergrad. Maybe even aspire to a Molsons Ph.D!

I'm learning the hard way that it is very easy to delete files, whole subdirectories even, with a simple click or two. I know to back up. I know that hard drives will fail. I know that I'll delete files that I'll desperately, desperately, want back the instant I do. It's a matter of when, not if. So let me remind y'all: back 'em up. Make copies. Be redundant in your backing up. Most importantly, when the inevitable does happen it might be possible to recover to the files. Stop using the hard drive that the files were deleted from and call the pros. Don't waste your time with the \$50 undelete programs off the web, you'll recover nothing and likely end with strange viruses for your troubles. Managed to recover most of the lost files, but I did lose a few night's sleep. (*I'm not going to say anything! Just visualize me shaking my head. Marian*).

### *JD's Picks*

[A Murder of Magpies](#) (\$18.50) by JUDITH FLANDERS is a delight. This is my kind of book. Set in the publishing industry—which is always a bonus—featuring Samantha

## *The Merchant of Menace,*

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### Postage & Handling

In a word: Actual

### Hours of Business

Thursday to Saturday: 10 to 6

Sunday: Noon - 4pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
& Statutory Holidays: Closed

We're often here outside of business hours, so call and we just might let you in.

“Sam” Clair, a London book editor who has some very entertaining and pithy things to say about her colleagues, authors and the industry. Best of all, she says it all with an absolutely fabulously witty way. Here’s what the jacket blurb has to say:

It's just another day at the office for London book editor Samantha "Sam" Clair. Checking jacket copy for howlers, wondering how to break it to her star novelist that her latest effort is utterly unpublishable, lunch scheduled with gossipy author Kit Lowell, whose new book will dish the juicy dirt on a recent fashion industry scandal. Little does she know the trouble Kit's book will cause—before it even goes to print. When police Inspector Field turns up at the venerable offices of Timmins & Ross, asking questions about a package addressed to Sam, she knows something is wrong. Now Sam's nine-to-five life is turned upside down as she finds herself propelled into a criminal investigation. Someone doesn't want Kit's manuscript published and unless Sam can put the pieces together in time, they'll do anything to stop it.

This is indeed a “deliciously funny debut novel” and I would say to you to read it slowly and savour the bon mots and enjoy this “too-clever-for-her-own-good new amateur sleuth, as well Sam's Goth assistant, her effortlessly glamorous mother, and the handsome Inspector Field.” A most entertaining read, this is a page-turner that I had a hard time putting down.

Now for something equally brilliant but in a very, very different way. **BELINDA BAUER**'s latest novel, *The Shut Eye* (\$19.95) is amazing, brilliant, “...streets ahead of most of her rivals...”—*Independent (UK)*. “Belinda Bauer is a marvel. Her novels are almost indecently gripping and enjoyable, and *The Shut Eye* is possibly her best yet.”—*Sophie Hannah*. Some of you are going to have one look at the premise—a missing four-year-old boy—and are going to put it down hurriedly, and who would blame you. It is a difficult topic and the distraught mother is quickly going around the bend. Some of you might put it down because a little dog has gone missing. But, if you can put all that aside, you’ll be rewarded with a terrific read.

Here’s a short review from the *Independent (UK)*: Anna Buck's son, Daniel, has gone missing, leaving behind only five footprints in cement as a sign that he ever existed. But this memento becomes immensely important to his devastated mother, who polishes the footprints daily as if they were religious relics. The suicidal Anna is a woman clearly hovering near the fringes of insanity, and it is hardly surprising when she turns to a TV psychic, Latham, for clues as to what happened to her son. Readers are inevitably skeptical of this man, but one beacon of hope may be on offer for Anna, if she can but take advantage of it: DCI John Marvel, who despite a cold, withholding personality, is clearly a man who will leave no stone unturned in a search for the truth.”

Besides humour, a couple of other things that I like in my reading are elegant writing and three-dimensional characters. *The Shut Eye* gives you all three. Yes, there is a great deal of humour in the story—you wouldn’t think so given the topic—and the characterization, especially poor Anna and the irritable and cantankerous Marvel, is sharp and focused, and the beautiful prose is a pleasure. They combine to make this a very satisfying, unputdownable read.

Quite enjoyed **TIMOTHY WILLIAMS'** *Another Sun* (#1) (\$9.99), originally published in 2013. This is the first in his series featuring French-Algerian judge Anne Marie Leveaud who has relocated to the beautiful sun-drenched Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. It’s much more than a travelogue, but that part of the story was a great deal of fun. For those of us who have great intentions of travelling to far off place but sometimes only get as far as Google maps, consider this as cheap a ticket as you’re ever going to get.

## *Marian's Picks*

Vanessa and I will be at the **Sisters in Crime** meeting on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> talking about, among other things, women mystery writers, their characters, how well their books sell, gender prejudice (does it still exist?) and the mystery genre in general. Vanessa will focus on the ‘cosy’ and how it changed and adapted from the days of the Grand Dames of the Golden Age—Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Margery Allingham and Ngaio Marsh—to such contemporary luminaries as Louise Penny and Carolyn Hart. It should prove to be an interesting evening and everyone is welcome, although if you are not a member of Sisters in Crime there is a \$5 admission fee. The

meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in Room 200 at the **Toronto Public Library, Northern District Branch, 40 Orchard View Blvd** (just a block north of the Eglinton subway station on Yonge and half a block west of Yonge). When you get inside the first set of doors, immediately turn right, and take the elevator to the second floor. It will be great to see you there and you might find a new mystery writer to read!

I must admit that I am enjoying our winter weather so far. I know that the pond skaters and snowmobilers are frustrated about unsafe ice conditions and the lack of snow, but it makes driving up to the cottage and walking Percy so much nicer. It would be even nicer if the temperature didn't seesaw as much as it has been doing; -10C one day and +10C the next, but I'm not complaining. There are no paved roads up at the cottage so the ground alternates between nice hard gravel, a joy to walk on, and soft muck, not such a joy. Percy comes home from our walks covered in muck, and my special boy, just does not like getting his feet cleaned. Struggling to get him dried off and de-mudded usually ends up in me being mudded and muddy footprints all over the cottage floors. But I don't care. Thank goodness there is only one carpet in the place.

The case of the exploding cauliflower prices seems to have been either a fraud perpetrated on the naïve vegetarian population of this fine province, or, more likely, it was a case of a good sound bite, but not really worth delving into at length. Cauliflower pricing turned out to be making ado about nothing. In fact, the boys at Badalis, my local and best green grocers, were selling lovely cauliflowers for \$2.99 while a major chain grocery store down the block was advertising theirs at \$4.99 in their weekly flyer. All is well with the world. In fact, I'm going to splurge: I have a really lovely one destined to join a cabbage, zucchini, sweet potato, onion and mushrooms in a lasagna that I'm making in a day or so. (Isn't it amazing how far a cabbage goes? With one you can feed multitudes). I love making lasagne and I don't have a set recipe. I just use up any stray vegetable that is in the fridge, grate up all the nubby cheese ends, buy more mozzarella from Alex Cheese, my local and best cheese shop, and go to it. Last lasagna I made I had them grate the mozzarella for me along with some smoked mozzarella. It tasted quite nice so I am thinking I might do that again. And they had some lovely ricotta cheese that I added as well...I'm getting hungry just thinking about this!

And our poor Canadian-dollar...we appreciate your understanding that the price of books is pretty much out of Sleuth's hands. It is what it is. When I look at the exchange rate that my credit card applies to US purchases, well, it's enough to make you weep. I just don't make any US purchase that I don't have to. Alas, a lot of our inventory comes from the US so, no options there. And all those folks who had booked trips to the US and are now paying 50% more for their stay there. All this to stay, that I cannot thank you enough for continuing to support us and buying books from us. It keeps us in business and Percy fed. You are the best customers any business could have.

It feels like I've waited years for **JONATHAN HOLT's** third installment in the Carnivia Trilogy, The Absolution (#3) (\$21.99), to be released, but, it's only been a year-and-a-half wait. Venetian police captain Kat Tapo and U.S. Army intelligence analyst Holly Boland are back in this absolutely amazing series and it is a terrific read, and a real nail biter. I read the book in almost one sitting—not counting the martini breaks! But, a word of caution. Where it often matters little if you do not read a series in order, it does here. There are such intricate relationships built through the books that you really need to start at the beginning and read them in order. I rarely feel the need to start at the beginning of a series, in fact, a lot of times I start with number two in a series just so I can see if I understand what's going on. That way, dear customer, I can honestly say you should start with number one or just jump in anywhere. So, do start with The Abomination (\$12 remaindered (quantities limited), \$16.99 new) and then read The Abduction (\$15 remaindered, \$24 new). Might as well buy all three titles while you're at it if you haven't read any of them yet! (I won't say too much here about wanting more. I know it was meant to be a trilogy, but, **Mr. Holt**, if Len Deighton could stretch a trilogy into ten parts...).

In The Absolution a man is found lying half in and half out of the sea on Lido beach, with his throat cut open and his tongue torn out by the roots. On his face is a curious mask. For Kat, it's her first solo murder investigation and she soon learns why she was given the case. The mask is a piece of Masonic paraphernalia known as a "hoodwink," and she suspects, that as a woman, she will be unable to penetrate the closed world of Italian freemasonry, and someone from higher up is hoping this is what happens. The dead man turns out to be a senior partner in a small Catholic bank, currently engaged in negotiations with one of Italy's richest men. Meanwhile, Holly has found a document among her father's belongings that indicates a Cold War cover-up. As she tracks down exactly what he knew, she is forced to ask herself: was her father prepared to become a whistleblower? And was he silenced for it? And reclusive genius Daniele Barbo, owner

of the anonymous website Carnivia.com, has discovered that his site has been contaminated by a virus, one that will unleash a wave of destruction across Italy unless he can break his own encryption and prevent an atrocity from taking place. As the three of them join together to track down the truth, they discover a powerful conspiracy involving the security services, the Church, and the CIA. It is such a good read that I can't say enough about the trilogy. And this from me, who does not like computers or computer games, websites and avatars. But all that fit right in with the story telling and was not at all off putting or unintelligible as I was afraid it would be. In fact, I was rooting for Daniele all through the three books!!

From **BAILEY CATTRELL** we get a new series: The Enchanted Garden Mystery series featuring a custom perfume maker and the first in the series is titled Daisies for Innocence (\$10.49). The Enchanted Garden behind Elliana Allbright's perfume shop draws people of all ages with its fragrant flowers and lush greenery. Her life has blossomed in Poppyville, California, since she opened Scents & Nonsense, a custom-made-perfume store. Her skills with aromas and botanical essences, some from her very own garden, seem almost supernatural. Her perfumes can evoke emotions, bring about change, or simply make people happy. But when she finds out that her part-time assistant Josie is dating her ex, trouble brews; and when she finds Josie dead in her Enchanted Garden she becomes the prime suspect. A delightful book where you learn about aromatherapy, feel so calm and centred, and want to grow all the flowers and plants that Ellie does. Could skip the murder, though. Under her pseudonym **BAILEY CATES**, she writes The Magical Bakery Mystery series: Brownies and Broomsticks (#1), Be-witched, Bothered and Biscotti (#2), Charms and Chocolate Chips (#3) (\$8.99 each), Some Enchanted Éclair (#4) (\$9.99) and Magic and Macaroons (#5) (\$10.49). Spells and Scones (#6) (\$10.99) is due August 2016.

Ever since I read the Suspect (\$11.99) by **ROBERT CRAIS** I have been looking for other "dog mysteries" to read to Percy. And I found one in Killing Trail (\$21.50) by **MARGARET MIZUSHIMA**. Deputy Mattie Lu Cobb and her K-9 partner, a German Shepherd named Robo, are assigned to a case where the body of a young girl has been found just outside Timber Creek, a small town in Colorado. Mattie has recently finished her training as a K-9 officer and is extremely nervous but determined to solve the murder. But so much more is happening in this small town and being her first case with Robo as her partner, there was some missteps. But, I was rooting for the two of them. I think I would love to watch these amazing police dogs get trained. A dream would be for me to take such a training course but I'd probably flunk and Percy, the in-grate, would want another partner. I can always dream.

And, a quick last minute addition. Real Tigers (#3) (\$26.95) by **MICK HERRON**, the brilliant sequel to the equally brilliant Slow Horses (#1) (\$9.99) and Dead Lions (#2) (\$14.95) has finally landed. Some months ago I told you all about this one. (I had gotten my hands on an advance reading copies and could not restrain myself from reading it nor from telling you how great a read it was. Not very nice of me, as you, dear reader, would not get the chance to see for yourself for a few months yet.) Well, it's here now. Slough House is the MI5 branch where disgraced operatives are reassigned after they've messed up too badly to be trusted with real intelligence work. These "slow horses," as the failed spies of Slough House are called, are doomed to spend the rest of their careers pushing paper, but they all want back in on the action. When one of their own is kidnapped and held for ransom, the agents of Slough House must defeat the odds, overturning all expectations of their competence, to breach the top-notch security of MI5's intelligence headquarters, Regent's Park, and steal valuable intel in exchange for their comrade's safety. Such a terrific, terrific series but do read them in the correct sequence.

## *Hardbacks*

**ANDERSON, LIN courvoisier** TCOT MISSING MADONNA (#2) (\$42.00) Brother Robert from the abbey on St Honorat, a picturesque island off the French coast, has requested Patrick de Courvoisier's help in locating a valuable painting which has disappeared from the monastery's vaults. At the same time, an old enemy from Patrick's past has arrived in Cannes in search of a different stolen painting. As it becomes increasingly clear that the two investigations are linked, Patrick's enquiries lead him to uncover a shocking wartime secret: a secret the British Royal family would prefer to keep hidden...

**ATKINS, ACE quinn** REDEEMERS (#5) (\$34.95) He is only in his early thir-

ties, but now Quinn Colson is jobless—voted out of office as sheriff of Tibbehah County, Mississippi, thanks to the machinations of county kingpin Johnny Stagg. He has offers, in bigger and better places, but before he goes, he's got one more job to do—bring down Stagg's criminal operations for good. At least that's the plan. Quite enjoyed this series, so start with Ranger (#1) (\$16).

**BARRON, STEPHANIE** JANE AND THE WATERLOO MAP (#13) (\$25.95) November, 1815. The Battle of Waterloo has come and gone, leaving the British economy in shreds; Henry Austen, high-flying banker, is about to declare bankruptcy—dragging several of his brothers down with him. The crisis destroys Henry's health, and Jane flies to his London bedside, believing him to be dying. While she's there, the chaplain to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent invites Jane to tour Carlton House, the Prince's fabulous London home. The chaplain is a fan of Jane's books, and during the tour he suggests she dedicate her next novel—*Emma*—to HRH, whom she despises. However, before she can speak to HRH, Jane stumbles upon a body—sprawled on the carpet in the Regent's library. The dying man, Colonel MacFarland, was a cavalry hero and a friend of Wellington's. He utters a single failing phrase: “Waterloo map” . . . and Jane is on the hunt for a treasure of incalculable value and a killer of considerable cunning.

**BLACK, BENJAMIN** quirke EVEN THE DEAD (#7) (\$31.50) Perhaps Quirke has been down among the dead too long. Lately the Irish pathologist has suffered hallucinations and blackouts, and he fears the cause is a brain tumor. A specialist diagnoses an old head injury caused by a savage beating; all that's needed, the doctor declares, is an extended rest. But Quirke, ever intent on finding his place among the living, is not about to retire. A terrific, intelligent, elegant series of novels. Start with Christine Falls (#1) (\$18.50).

**BLAEDEL, SARA** rick & lind KILLING FOREST (#6) (\$31.50) Following an extended leave, Louise Rick returns to work at the Special Search Agency, an elite unit of the National Police Department. She's assigned a case involving a fifteen-year-old who vanished a week earlier. When Louise realizes that the missing teenager is the son of a butcher from Hvalsoe, she seizes the opportunity to combine the search for the teen with her personal investigation of her boyfriend's long-ago death . . . Louise's investigation takes her on a journey back through time. She reconnects with figures from her past, including Kim, the principal investigator at the Holbaek Police Department, her former in-laws, fanatic ancient religion believers, and her longtime close friend, journalist Camilla Lind. Another terrific series, Call Me Princess (#2) and Forgotten Girls (#5) (\$17 each) are excellent reads.

**BRETT, SIMON** feathering KILLING IN THE CAFE (#17) (\$42.00) Polly's Cake Shop has been a feature of the shopping parade for many years, but when its owner announces her retirement, the Feathering residents start to worry about the loss of this popular amenity. Alarmed by rumours that the café might become a Starbucks, a group clubs together to form the Save Polly's Cake Shop Action Committee. The plan is that Polly's should become a community venture, managed and run by volunteers from the village. The best laid plans and all that . . .

**BURKE, ALAFAIR** EX (\$33.50) Olivia Randall is one of New York City's best criminal defense lawyers. When she hears that her former fiancé, Jack Harris, has been arrested for a triple homicide, and that one of the victims was connected to his wife's murder three years earlier, there is no doubt in her mind as to his innocence. The only question is, who would go to such great lengths to frame him—and why? For Olivia, representing Jack is a way to make up for past regrets and absolve herself of guilt from a tragic decision, a secret she has held for twenty years. But as the evidence against him mounts, she is forced to confront her doubts. The man she knew could not have done this. But what if she never really knew him?

**COLEMAN, REED** FARREL gus WHERE IT HURTS (#1) (\$35.00) Gus Murphy, a retired Suffolk County cop, had it all, but in the course of a single deadly moment, his family is blown apart and he is transformed from a man who believes he understands everything into a man who understands nothing. Divorced and working as a courtesy van driver for the run-down hotel in which he has a room, Gus has settled into a mindless, soulless routine that barely keeps his grief at arm's length. But Gus's comfortable waking trance comes to an end when ex-con Tommy Delcamino asks him for help. Four months earlier, Tommy's son T.J.'s battered body was discovered in a wooded lot, yet the Suffolk County PD doesn't seem interested in pursuing the killers. In desperation, Tommy seeks out the only cop he ever trusted—Gus Murphy. Gus reluctantly agrees to see what he can uncover.

**CONNELL, JOHN A** collins SPOILS OF VICTORY (#2) (\$35.00) When the Third Reich collapsed, the small town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen became the home of fleeing war criminals, making it the final depository for the Nazis' stolen riches. There are fortunes to be made on the black market. Murder, extortion, and corruption have become the norm. It's a perfect storm for a criminal investigator like Mason Collins, especially when his friend, CIC Agent John Winstone, claims that a group of powerful men

are taking over the lucrative trade. But before he can fully explain, Winstone and his girlfriend are brutally murdered. Determined to uncover the truth, Mason plunges into a shadowy labyrinth of co-conspirators including former SS and Gestapo officers, U.S. Army OSS officers, and liberated Polish POWs. Sequel to Ruins of War (#1) (\$21). **CORNWELL, PATRICIA** *scarpe* DEPRAVED HEART (#23) (\$32.99) Dr. Kay Scarpetta is working a suspicious death scene in Cambridge, Massachusetts, when an emergency alert sounds on her phone. A video link lands in her text messages and seems to be from her computer genius niece, Lucy. But how can it be? It's clearly a surveillance film of Lucy taken almost twenty years ago. As Scarpetta watches, she begins to learn frightening secrets about her niece.

**CUMMING, CHARLES** *levne* COLDER WAR (#2) (\$15 Remaindered hardcover) A top-ranking Iranian military official is blown up while trying to defect to the West. An investigative journalist is arrested and imprisoned for writing an article critical of the Turkish government. An Iranian nuclear scientist is assassinated on the streets of Tehran. These three incidents, seemingly unrelated, have one crucial link. Each of the three had been recently recruited by Western intelligence, before being removed or killed. Then Paul Wallinger, MI6's most senior agent in Turkey, dies in a puzzling plane crash. Fearing the worst, MI6 bypasses the usual protocol and brings disgraced agent Tom Kell in from the cold to investigate. Kell soon discovers what Wallinger had already begun to suspect - that there's a mole somewhere in the Western intelligence, a traitor who has been systematically sabotaging scores of joint intelligence operations in the Middle East. The first with this character is Foreign Country (\$15.00). Excellent stuff.

**DANIELS, ROBERT** *sturgis* ONCE SHADOWS FALL (\$35.50) After years of paying her dues on the force, Beth Sturgis has earned her place as a detective for the Robbery-Homicide division of the Atlanta PD. Now, she's heading up a major manhunt for a potential serial killer who's working his way inward from the outskirts of the city. The copycat elements in the first crime scene lead Sturgis to retired FBI agent Jack Kale, who was responsible for apprehending and nearly killing the murderer known as the Scarecrow, the same Scarecrow who appears to be this new killer's terrible inspiration.

**DEAN, ANNA** *dido kent* PLACE OF CONFINEMENT (#4) (\$15 remaindered hardcover) The inquisitive Miss Dido Kent returns to elucidate the mysterious disappearance of a young woman...Regency era.

**DEPOY, PHILLIP** *marlowe* PRISONER IN MALTA (#1) (\$31.50) In 1583, the nineteen-year-old Christopher Marlowe—with a reputation as a brawler, a womanizer, a genius, and a social upstart at Cambridge University—is visited by a man representing Marlowe's benefactors. There are rumours of a growing plot against her majesty Queen Elizabeth I, and the Queen's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham, has charged young Marlowe with tracking down the truth. The path to that truth seems to run through an enigmatic prisoner held in complete seclusion in a heavily guarded dungeon in Malta. Marlowe must use every bit of his wits, his skills, and his daring to unravel one of the greatest mysteries in history and help uncover and unravel scheme of assassination and invasion, one involving the government of Spain, high ranking English nobles, and even the Pope himself.

**DORSEY, TIM** *serge storms* COCONUT COWBOY (#19) (\$31.99) Serge A. Storms is hitting the road. Inspired by the classic biker flick Easy Rider, the irrepressible trivia buff and his drug-addled travel buddy, Coleman, head out on a motorcycle tour down the length of the Sunshine State, on a mission to rediscover the lost era of the American Dream. But going from small town to small town, they discover that some have lost much of their former charm—including one particular hamlet of skeezy rural politicians that is hell-bent on keeping prying eyes out of their ineptly corrupt style of local government.

**FLANNERY, TIM** MYSTERY OF THE VENUS ISLAND FETISH (\$28.99) It's 1932, and the Great Venus Island Fetish, a ceremonial mask surrounded by thirty-two human skulls, now resides in a museum in Sydney, Australia. But young anthropologist Archie Meek, recently returned from an extended field trip to Venus Island, has noticed something amiss: a strange discoloration on some of the skulls. Has someone tampered with the fetish? Is there a link between it and the mysterious disappearance of Cecil Polkinghorne, curator of archaeology? And how did Eric Sopwith, retired mollusks expert, die in the museum's storeroom? Could Archie's life be at risk as well? But, most importantly, why hasn't his beloved Beatrice—registrar, anthropology—accepted his proposal of marriage and the love token he brought back from Venus Island?

**FYFIELD, FRANCES** *painter* PAINTED SMILE (#1) (\$32.99 hardcover, \$22.99 trade paperback) Young, rich widow Diana Porteous has inherited a vast collection of paintings, but she feels without purpose again. Then her beloved stepgrandson comes up with the idea for an exhibition of portraits with the title 'A Question of Guilt'. It starts as a joke, but soon they are preparing the huge wine cellar of the old schoolhouse by the sea, in spite of those with misgivings as to its suitability. Soon Di has

plenty to occupy her: a mysterious woman encourages Di and her friend Sarah Fortune, both natural thieves, to steal from a public collection. And then there's the life-drawing class, where an artist dies and someone steals from him, placing his finds in the cellar.

**GALBRAITH, ROBERT** strike SILKWORM (#2) (\$15 remaindered large print hardcover) When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, Mrs. Quine just thinks her husband has gone off by himself for a few days, as he has done before, and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home. But as Strike investigates, it becomes clear that there is more to Quine's disappearance than his wife realizes. Sequel to Cuckoo's Calling (#1) (\$11.99) which is excellent.

**GANNON, JOE** LAST DAWN (\$31.50) 1989. It's been three years since Captain Ajax Montoya has been imprisoned in a psychiatric hospital in Managua, after his encounter with a psychotic killer. Rescued he might be now, but there's another hell awaiting. El Salvador in 1989 is in a civil war so vicious, they say even the Grim Reaper needs an escort. But when the parents of Ajax's old love beg him to go there and save their son—as he did not save their daughter—Ajax is on the next plane. Not alone. Gladys Dario, the lieutenant whose rescue cost Ajax his freedom and his mind, has been stewing in Miami for three years, and she is ready to back his play, even if it costs her own life. Now all they have to do is parachute into the hottest war in the Americas and find that one needle of a missing person in a haystack of the disappeared.

**GOODMAN, CAROL** RIVER ROAD (\$34.00) Nan Lewis—a creative writing professor at a state university in upstate New York—is driving home from a faculty holiday party after finding out she's been denied tenure. On her way, she hits a deer, but when she gets out of her car to look for it, the deer is nowhere to be found. The next morning, Nan is woken up by a police officer at her door with terrible news—one of her students, Leia Dawson, was killed in a hit-and-run on River Road the night before. And because of the damage to her car, Nan is a suspect. In the days following the accident, Nan finds herself shunned by the same community that rallied around her when her own daughter was killed in an eerily similar accident six years prior. When Nan begins finding disturbing tokens that recall the death of Nan's own daughter, Nan suspects that the two accidents are connected.

**GRAVES, SARAH** snow GIRLS SHE LEFT BEHIND (#2) (\$34.00) Ex-Boston homicide detective Lizzie Snow is the new sheriff's deputy in Maine's Great North Woods. First it was the ice and snow of the punishing North Woods winter—that was dreadful enough—now, a stubborn forest fire rages out of control. Add a teenage girl with a history of running away who has dropped out of sight again, a kidnapper and rapist who once held three girls prisoner for fifteen years has escaped and may be lurking nearby and, to top it all off, the missing girl's mother, a frustrating teller of needless lies and keeper of dark, incomprehensible secrets. Following a trail of grisly clues—a bloodstained motel room, a makeshift coffin in a shallow grave—Lizzie is drawn ever closer to the flames in her race to save an innocent and corner a monster.

**HALL, PARNELL** PRESUMED PUZZLED (#17) (\$28.99) The Puzzle Lady gets more than she bargained for when she's hired to track down Paula Martindale's straying husband. She finds him, all right, hacked to pieces on his living room rug, while his blood-drenched wife haunts the crime scene clutching a butcher knife. It's a tough spot for attractive young attorney Becky Baldwin. Paula is presumed innocent until proven guilty, but try to find one juror who's going to think so. It's up to Cora to find the evidence to save the day.

**HARRISON, CORA** SHAMEFUL MURDER (#1) (\$42.00) Cork, Ireland. 1923. When, one wet March morning, Reverend Mother Aquinas discovers a body at the gate of the convent chapel washed up after a flood 'like a mermaid in gleaming silver satin', she immediately sends for one of her former pupils, Police Sergeant Patrick Cashman, to investigate. Dead bodies are not unusual in the poverty-stricken slums of Cork city, but this one is dressed in evening finery; in her handbag is a dance programme for the exclusive Merchant's Ball held the previous evening – and a midnight ticket for the Liverpool ferry.

Against the backdrop of a country in the midst of Ireland's Civil War, the Reverend Mother, together with Sergeant Cashman and Dr. Sher, an enlightened physician and friend, seek out the truth as to the identity of the victim and her killer.

**HARRISON, CORA** burren FATAL INHERITANCE (#13) (\$42.00) When a woman's body is discovered, strangled and bound with rope to the stone torso of Fár Breige, the ancient stone god which stands sentinel above the haunted caves and ancient fortifications of the Atlantic cliffs, the locals believe it was the god who killed her. In life, Clodagh O'Lochlainn had been a disgrace to her clan, tormenting her former priestly lover, jeering at her husband, robbing her relatives: but could she really have been slaughtered by a vengeful god, as the local population believes? Abandoning preparations for the celebration of her fiftieth birthday, Mara, Brehon of the Burren, with the assistance of Fachtnan and her scholars, takes up the task of solving the murder.

**HARROD-EAGLES, C** slider ONE UNDER (#18) (\$42.00) A middle-aged man

jumps under a tube train at Shepherd's Bush station, and a teenage girl is killed in a hit-and-run, in a country lane puzzlingly far from her home on the White City Estate: two unrelated incidents which occupy DCI Bill Slider and his team during a slack period. At least it's a change of speed after the grind of domestics, burglaries and Community Liaison. But links to a cold case—another dead teenager, pulled out of the River Thames—create doubts as to whether they are indeed unrelated.

**HERRON, MICK** *slow horses* REAL TIGERS (#3) (\$26.95) London: Slough House is the MI5 branch where disgraced operatives are reassigned after they've messed up too badly to be trusted with real intelligence work. The "Slow Horses," as the failed spies of Slough House are called, are doomed to spend the rest of their careers pushing paper, but they all want back in on the action. When one of their own is kidnapped and held for ransom, the agents of Slough House must defeat the odds, overturning all expectations of their competence, to breach the top-notch security of MI5's intelligence headquarters, Regent's Park, and steal valuable intel in exchange for their comrade's safety. Another terrific series, start with Slow Horses (#1) (\$9.99) and then go on to Dead Lions (#2) (\$14.95) and top it all off with this one. A *Marian's Pick*.

**HOLT, ANNE wilhelmsen** LION'S MOUTH (#5) (\$35.00) Hanne Wilhelmsen is on the case when someone murders the prime minister of Norway. Less than six months after taking office, the Norwegian Prime Minister is found dead. She has been shot in the head. But was it a politically motivated assassination or personal revenge?

**HURLEY, GRAHAM** *suttle* ORDER OF THINGS (#4) (\$32.99) D/S Jimmy Suttle is called to a brutal murder in the picturesque Devon village of Lymptone. Harriet Reilly, a local GP, has been found disemboweled in the bedroom of her partner, climate scientist Alois Bentner. Meanwhile, Suttle's estranged wife, Lizzie, who has abandoned Portsmouth and moved to Exeter and returned to journalism, hears rumours of a local GP offering mercy killings to patients meeting certain criteria. The name of the GP is Harriet Reilly.

**HURWITZ, GREGG** ORPHAN X (\$29.99) Evan Smoak is a man with skills, resources, and a personal mission to help those with nowhere else to turn. He's also a man with a dangerous past. Chosen as a child, he was raised and trained as part of the off-the-books black box Orphan program, designed to create the perfect deniable intelligence assets - i.e. assassins. He was Orphan X. Evan broke with the program, using everything he learned to disappear. Now, however, someone is on his tail. Someone with similar skills and training. Someone who knows Orphan X. Someone who is getting closer and closer and someone who has an edge.

**JACOBSON, HOWARD** SHYLOCK IS MY NAME (\$29.95) Specially commissioned for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bard of Avon...this author, a Man Booker Prize winner and a great chronicler of Jewish life, retells the story of Shylock, but reset in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**KELLERMAN, JONATHAN** *delaware* BREAKDOWN (#31) (\$37.95) Psychologist Dr. Alex Delaware meets beautiful and emotionally fragile TV actress Zelda Chase when called upon to evaluate her five-year-old son, Ovid. Years later, Alex is unexpectedly reunited with Zelda when she is involuntarily committed after a bizarre psychotic episode. Shortly after Zelda's release, an already sad situation turns tragic when she is discovered dead on the grounds of a palatial Bel Air estate. Having experienced more than enough of L.A.'s dark side to recognize the scent of evil, Alex turns to his friend LAPD Lieutenant Milo Sturgis for help in finding out who ended Zelda's broken life.

**KELLY, MICHELLE** *keeley* DOWNWARD FACING DEATH (#1) (\$29.99) After ten years away, Keeley Carpenter is excited to be back in Belfrey, the traditional English village hometown she fled as a shy teen, with a plan to reopen her father's neglected butcher shop as a yoga cafe, where she will sell delicious vegetarian food by day and teach yoga classes at night. However, the more traditional residents of Belfrey do not take kindly to this idea—or really anything they deem even remotely "New Age-y." Within an hour of her arrival, Keeley comes face to face with Detective Constable Ben Taylor, who tells her that someone has just tried to burn down her shop. When officers arrived to stop the blaze, a body was found upstairs. Horrified by this news, Keeley is also startled to be reintroduced to Ben as DC Taylor, as he was her high school crush. In spite of her instant attraction to him, Keeley is determined to keep Ben at arm's length.

**KHAN, AUSMA ZEHANAT** *getty* LANGUAGE OF SECRETS (#2) (\$29.99) Detective Esa Khattak heads up Canada's Community Policing Section, which handles minority-sensitive cases across all levels of law enforcement. Khattak is still under scrutiny for his last case (Unquiet Dead (#1) (\$18.50)), so he's surprised when INSET, Canada's national security team, calls him in on another politically sensitive issue. For months, INSET has been investigating a local terrorist cell which is planning an attack on New Year's Day. INSET had an informant, Mohsin Dar, undercover inside the cell. But now, just weeks before the attack, Mohsin has been murdered at the group's training camp deep in the woods. INSET wants Khattak to give the appearance of investigating Mohsin's death, and then to bury the lead. They can't risk exposing their opera-

tion, or Mohsin's role in it. But Khattak used to know Mohsin, and he knows he can't just let this murder slide. So Khattak sends his partner, Detective Rachel Getty, undercover into the unsuspecting mosque which houses the terrorist cell. As Rachel tentatively reaches out into the unfamiliar world of Islam, and begins developing relationships with the people of the mosque and the terrorist cell within it, the potential reasons for Mohsin's murder only seem to multiply, from the political and ideological to the intensely personal.

**KOENIG, MINERVA kalas** SOUTH OF NOWHERE (#2) (\$31.50) Reformed criminal Julia Kalas has found a place for herself in small-town Texas. After being forced to relocate by the Aryan Brotherhood and witness protection, she's working on getting her budding construction business off the ground. But her newfound status as a sometimes-problem solver doesn't stop local cops from giving her the hairy eyeball when a dead body is found stuffed in the upstairs closet of her latest remodeling project. Sequel to Nine Days (#1) (\$15 remaindered hardback).

**LANCET, BARRY brodie** PACIFIC BURN (#3) (\$34.00) In the third book in "what will likely be a long and successful series" (*San Francisco Magazine*), Japanese antiques dealer and PI Jim Brodie goes up against the CIA, FBI, Department of Homeland Security—and a killer operating on both sides of the Pacific. An excellent series, start with Japantown (#1) (\$18.99) and then carry on to Tokyo Kill (#2) (\$20.99).

**MACBRIDE, STUART logan** IN THE COLD DARK GROUND (#10) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$21.99 trade paperback) Sergeant Logan McRae is in trouble...His missing-persons investigation has just turned up a body in the woods—naked, hands tied behind its back, and a bin bag duct-taped over its head. The Major Investigation Team charges up from Aberdeen, under the beady eye of Logan's ex-boss Detective Chief Inspector Steel. And, as usual, she wants him to do her job for her. But it's not going to be easy: a new Superintendent is on her way up from the Serious Organised Crime Task Force, hell-bent on making Logan's life miserable; Professional Standards are gunning for Steel; and Wee Hamish Mowat, head of Aberdeen's criminal underbelly, is dying—leaving rival gangs from all over the UK eying his territory. There's a war brewing and Logan's trapped right in the middle, whether he likes it or not.

**MACDONALD, PHILIP RASP** (\$18.99) A victim is bludgeoned to death with a woodworker's rasp in this first case for the famed gentleman detective Anthony Gethryn - the latest in a new series of classic detective novels from the vaults of HarperCollins. Originally published in 1924.

**MACGREGOR, ROY** CANOE COUNTRY: THE MAKING OF CANADA (\$32.00) From the earliest explorers on the Columbia River in BC or the Mattawa in Ontario to a doomed expedition of voyageurs up the Nile to rescue Khartoum; from the author's family roots deep in the Algonquin wilderness to modern families who have canoed across the country (kids and dogs included): this is the author's celebration of the essential and enduring love affair Canadians have with our first and still favourite means of getting around. Famous paddlers have been so enchanted with the canoe that one swore God made Canada as the perfect country in which to paddle it. Drawing on the author's own decades spent whenever possible with a paddle in his hand, this is a story of high adventure on white water and the sweetest peace in nature's quietest corners, from the author best able (and most eager) to tell it. There may be some crime in here somewhere...

**MALLIET, G M max** DEMON SUMMER (#4) (\$15 remaindered hardcover, also available as new trade paperback \$18.50) Someone has been trying to poison the 15th Earl of Lislelivet. Since Lord Lislelivet has a gift for making enemies, no one—particularly his wife—finds this too surprising. What is surprising is that the poison was discovered in a fruitcake made and sold by the Handmaids of St. Lucy of Monkbury Abbey. Max Tudor, vicar of Nether Monkship and former MI5 agent, is asked to investigate. But just as Max comes to believe the poisoning was accidental, a body is discovered in the cloister well.

**NEUHAUS, NELE bodenstein** I AM YOUR JUDGE (#4) (\$31.50) Police Detective Pia Kirchoff is about to leave on her long-delayed honeymoon when she receives a phone call. An elderly woman has been shot and killed while walking her dog. A short while later another murder is committed and the modus operandi is eerily similar - a woman is killed by a bullet that smashes through her kitchen window ... and in both cases the same weapon fired the shot. Two more murders follow in short order. None of the victims had enemies and no one knows why they were singled out. As fear of the Taunus Sniper grows among the local residents, the pressure rises on Detective Kirchoff. She and her partner, Oliver von Bodenstein, search for a suspect who appears to murder at will, but as the investigation progresses, the police officers uncover a human tragedy.

**PARKER/KNOTT, ROBERT cole** BLACKJACK (#8) (\$35.00) Appaloosa, the hometown of Territorial Marshals Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch, continues to prosper, but with prosperity comes a slew of new trouble: carpetbaggers, gamblers, migrants, peddlers, drifters, thieves, and whores, all boiling in a cauldron of excess and greed.

And there's a new menace in town: a wealthy, handsome easterner—and the owner of Appaloosa's new casino—Boston Bill Black. Boston Bill is flashy and bigger than life. He's a prankster and a notorious womanizer, and with eight notches on the handle of his Colt, he's rumoured quick on the draw. When he finds himself wanted for a series of murders, he quickly vanishes. Cole and Hitch are on his trail...

**PATTERSON, JAMES & MARSHALL KARP** NYPD RED 4 (\$34.00) NYPD Red: the elite task force assigned to protect the rich, famous, and connected in the city where crime never sleeps...

**PEACOCK, CARO lane** FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES (#7) (\$42.00) September, 1840. Novelist and patron of the arts Lady Blessington has hired Liberty Lane to escort a French gentleman to The Hague. For he has in his possession important papers that will assist in the forthcoming trial of Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, the late emperor's nephew who has failed in an attempt to seize power in France. Plans for the undercover expedition are disrupted however when a body is found hanging in the attic at Gore House, Lady Blessington's Kensington mansion. Uncovering evidence that the murder was meticulously prepared for and planned well in advance, Liberty determines to track down the killer. But she is about to find herself plunged into a highly dangerous game involving blackmail, treachery, espionage – and cold-blooded murder.

**PEARS, IAIN** ARCADIA (\$36.95) In 1960, Henry Lytten is an Oxford don who dabbles in espionage and fiction writing. Rosie Wilson is the quick-witted, curious 15-year-old girl who feeds Professor Lytten's cat. Several hundred years in the future, living in a dystopian society on the Isle of Mull, is Angela Meerson—a brilliant psycho-mathematician who has discovered the world-changing potential of a powerful new machine. Somewhere, sometime, is Jay—a scholar's apprentice in an idyllic, pastoral land. Who these people really are, and how their stories come together, well, read on and all will be revealed.

**PERRY, THOMAS** FORTY THIEVES (\$36.95) Sid and Ronnie Abel are a first-rate husband-and-wife detective team, both retirees of the LAPD. Ed and Nicole Hoyt are married assassins-for-hire living in the San Fernando Valley. Except for deadly aim with a handgun, the two couples have little in common—until they are both hired to do damage control on the same murder case: James Ballantine, a middle-aged African-American who worked as a research scientist for a prestigious company and was well liked by his colleagues. But two bullets to the back of the head looked like nothing if not foul play. Now, with the case turning cold, Ballantine's former employers bring in the Abels to succeed where the police have failed, while the Hoyts' mysterious contractors want to make sure that the facts about Ballantine's death stay hidden...the Abels must fend for their own lives as they circle ever closer to the truth.

**RIMINGTON, STELLA carlyle** CLOSE CALL (#8) (\$15 remaindered hard covers) The Arab Spring has swept through the Middle East and Liz Carlyle and her compatriots in the Thames House's counterespionage division are racing to investigate arms deals in Yemen. There's a UN embargo forbidding any member country from supplying arms to either side in the uprisings, but Andy Bokus, head of the CIA's London Station, has evidence that the weapons being smuggled into Yemen are not only being sold to both sides, but are coming from a connection in the UK, a highly embarrassing black mark on the government and, if true, full of disastrous consequences.

**ROSENFELT, DAVID** BLACKOUT (\$29.99) New Jersey state police officer Doug Brock has been after infamous criminal Nicholas Bennett for years. When Bennett kills someone close to Doug, however, Doug's investigation—and his life—start spiraling out of control. He's placed on indefinite suspension from the police force and breaks things off with his fiancée, but he can't let the case go, and he continues an off-the-books investigation on his own. When Doug's former partner on the force, Nate Alvarez, receives a call from Doug saying he's discovered something big, something terrifying, something they need to call in the FBI to handle, Nate is furious that Doug has still been working the case. Maybe he should have listened...

**SEARS, MICHAEL stafford** SAVING JASON (#4) (\$35.00) Jason Stafford used to be a hot Wall Street trader, went too far, and paid for it in prison. Now a financial investigator, he's been asked to look into rumors of a hostile takeover of his firm, but he has no idea it will turn his whole life upside down. Suddenly embroiled in a grand jury investigation of Mob-related activities on Wall Street, and threatened by some very serious men, he is thrust into witness protection with his young autistic son. And then his son disappears. Has he been kidnapped, or worse? With no choice but to act, Stafford has no choice but to come out of hiding and risk everything to save his son, his firm, his pregnant girlfriend—and himself. Another terrific series. Start with Black Fridays (#1) (\$10.99).

**SHAW, WILLIAM breen tozer** SONG FOR THE BROKENHEARTED (#3) (\$31.50) After being wounded in the line of duty, Detective Sergeant Breen recuperates on the family farm of his former partner, Helen Tozer. To fill the long and empty hours, he reviews the open case file for a murder that has haunted Helen for years: that of her younger sister. Breen discovers that the teenage victim had been having a secret affair

with James Fletchet, the son of an affluent local landowner, celebrated for his service in Kenya during the Mau Mau Uprising. Breen and Tozer return to London's Criminal Investigation Division, where their questions about Fletchet's past are met with resistance and suspicion. The deeper they probe, the more people they implicate in their investigation. New Scotland Yard doesn't look kindly upon breaking rank, and it's only a matter of time before Breen and Tozer make themselves a target.

**WOODS, STUART barrington** FOREIGN AFFAIRS (#35) (\$35.95) When he's apprised at the last minute of a mandatory meeting abroad, Stone Barrington rushes off to Europe for a whirlwind tour of business and, of course, pleasure. But from the start the trip seems to be cursed, plagued by suspicious "accidents" and unfortunate events, and some of Stone's plans go up in flames—literally. Not a believer in coincidence, Stone sets out to learn the true source of his curious misfortune and finds that what appeared to be bad luck may, in fact, have been a warning.

**WOODS, STUART barrington** SCANDALOUS BEHAVIOR (#36) (\$36.00) After a series of nonstop adventures, Stone Barrington is eager for some peace and quiet in a rustic British setting. But no sooner does he land in England than he's beset by an outrageous demand from a beautiful lady, and an offer he can't refuse. Unfortunately, Stone quickly learns that his new acquisition comes with some undesired strings attached—namely, a deadly mystery involving the complex relationships of the local gentry, and a relentless adversary who raises the stakes with every encounter. Stone's restful country vacation is looking like yet another troublesome situation, but with his tireless aplomb—and the help of a few friends—he is more than up to the challenge.

**ZANDRI, VINCENT** ORCHARD GROVE (\$35.50) Sometimes fences make for nice neighbours. Other times they hide the evil within. Orchard Grove is a town like any other, with quiet neighbourhoods and apple groves . . . though Ethan, the depressed screenplay writer, and his secretive wife, Susan, would tell you differently. So would the seductive serial killer living next door. The apple trees are fertilized with evil, and the backyard fences aren't enough to stop the manipulative mind games and dangerous lies. The lines between good and evil are blurred, and then erased, as Ethan does what it takes to survive.

## Paperbacks

**AAMES, AVERY cheese shop** FOR CHEDDAR OR WORSE (#7) (\$10.49) In this new Cheese Shop Mystery from the Agatha Award-winning author of As Gouda as Dead (#6) (\$9.99), an extra-sharp tongued cheese critic is cut down during a summer cheese festival.

**ALAUX, JEAN-PIERRE** LATE HARVEST HAVOC (#10) (\$20.00) Winter is in the air in Alsace and local customs are sowing trouble, piquing the curiosity of the famous winemaker from Bordeaux, Benjamin Cooker. While the wine expert and his assistant Virgile settle into their hotel in the old city of Colmar, distinguished vineyards are attacked. Is it revenge? The plot thickens when estates with no apparent connection to one another suffer the same sabotage just days prior to the late harvest. All of Alsace is in turmoil, plunged in the grip of suspicion that traces its roots back to the darkest hours of the German occupation. As he crosses back and forth into Germany from the Alsace he thought he knew so well, Cooker discovers a land of superstition, rivalry, and jealousy. Between tastings of the celebrated wines, he is drawn into the lives and intrigues of the inhabitants.

**ARLINGTON, LUCY novel** OFF THE BOOKS (#5) (\$10.49) The Novel Idea Literary Agency has planned a wedding-themed week for Inspiration Valley, celebrating not only North Carolina's best vendors but also some of the agency's most popular bridal books. The fact that Lila can use the event to plan her own impending nuptials is just the icing on the cake. But wedding bells turn to warning bells when Lila finds a dead man face down in the frosting. Soon it's discovered that the victim was connected to several Novel Idea authors, all of whom quickly become suspects in the case. It's up to Lila and her fellow agents to find the real killer.

**BAUER, BELINDA** SHUT EYE (\$19.95) A woman gets involved with a psychic who may be able to find her missing son. . . Five footprints are the only sign that four-year-old Daniel Buck was ever here. And now they are all his mother has left. Every day, Anna Buck guards the little prints in the cement. Polishing them to a shine. Keeping them safe. Spiraling towards insanity. Anna is desperate for hope, which she's not getting from the police, or her husband James. So when a woman tells her she's found a true psychic, a 'shut eye,' she grasps at it. *A JD's Pick.*

**BECKETT, SIMON** WHERE THERE'S SMOKE (\$15.99) Imagine not knowing the father of your child. Not knowing his name. What he looks like. Or what sort of per-

son he is. Although she is desperate for a baby, that is something that Kate Powell cannot accept. Single, independent, she likes to be in control of her own life—even if it has, somehow, become strangely shallow and meaningless. Then Kate meets a man who seems to be the answer to all her problems. But we all know appearances can be dangerously deceptive. And Kate should too. Soon her life is out her hands. And out of control.

**BERENSON, ALEX john wells** TWELVE DAYS (#9) (\$12.99) John Wells, with his former CIA bosses Ellis Shafer and Vinny Duto, have uncovered a staggering plot, a false-flag operation to drive the United States and Iran into war. But they have no proof and only twelve days to find a way to stop the headlong momentum. They fan out, from Switzerland to Saudi Arabia, Israel to Russia, desperately trying to tease out the clues in their possession. And meanwhile, the forces gather.

**BEUKES, LAUREN** SHINING GIRLS (\$12 remainder ed paper backs) Let me just say, read it. It's gruesome in spots, but gripping. I was often confused, trying to understand what was going on. A serial killer who has the ability to travel back and forth in time, moving from Chicago of the 30s to the 90s...

**BRADY, JACKLYN cake** CAKES OF MONTE CRISTO (#6) (\$10.49) Rita Lucero, co-owner of New Orleans's Zydeco Cakes, is thrilled to be catering an annual ball held at the Monte Cristo Hotel. Designing the high-end desserts is her priority—until she stumbles upon a mystery long-buried at her shop. It's an ornate ruby necklace, hidden underneath her staircase and rumoured to be cursed. After the gem's appraiser suddenly drops dead and Rita herself is targeted by a menacing stranger, she's no longer laughing at local superstition. Now with five cakes on order and an investigation into the necklace's past revealing layers of unsettling clues, Rita has reason to keep looking over her shoulder while she's frosting. Because any way you slice it, the next victim of the legendary curse could be her.

**BRENNAN, ALLISON revere** COMPULSION (#2) (\$9.99) Investigative reporter Maxine Revere has a theory: Maybe five New York City murders for which Adam Bachman is being tried are just one part of his master plan? In probing another case, involving a missing couple, Max uncovers striking similarities to Bachman's MO. It seems likely that Bachman wasn't working alone... but how can she prove it?

**BRETT, SIMON feathering** TOMB IN TURKEY (#16) (\$27.00) Carole Seddon and Jude are enjoying a free vacation at a luxurious Turkish villa owned by Jude's property developer friend Barney Willingdon. But from the outset the holiday is marred by a series of menacing incidents: threatening messages daubed on the villa walls; and their host being accosted by a knife-wielding man at a local restaurant. As Carole and Jude launch into what they do best—investigating—it becomes clear that Barney Willingdon has made plenty of enemies, with his ruthless business deals and complicated love life. Matters come to a head when Carole's sightseeing trip to nearby Pinara is curtailed by the discovery of a body in one of the ancient Lycian tombs. And what really did happen to Barney's first wife, Zoe?

**BRODY, FRANCES shackleton** WOMAN UNKNOWN (#4) (\$18.50) Kate Shackleton, amateur sleuth extraordinaire, is involved in two cases: that of Deirdre Fitzpatrick, who is married to a man who wants to know where she really goes when supposedly taking care of her sick mother and that of Everett Runcie, a banker facing ruin and disgrace, whose American heiress wife will no longer pay for his mistakes, or tolerate his infidelity, and is seeking a divorce. When Runcie is found dead in his hotel room, Kate is thrown into the depths of an altogether more sinister investigation. Can she uncover the truth of her most complex, and personal, case to date?

**BURKE, ZOE starkey** JUMP THE GUN (#1) (\$23.00) Annabelle Starkey also loves movies. Why does her own life never match up to her favorite Silver-Screen scenarios? One day, by chance, she meets the charming but slightly mysterious and definitely magnetic Mickey Paxton at a book convention and decides it's time to live one of those Cary Grant films and accept Mickey's invitation to fly to Las Vegas for a holiday. Not so much a hook-up as a test flight for romance. The script takes a surprise turn when they arrive in Sin City and danger knocks. Suddenly Annabelle and Mickey are on the run—from what? And why? A debut mystery and starts a series for a heroine whose cinematic fantasies spur her to take chances...

**CHANCE, MAIA fairy tale** BEAUTY BEAST AND BELLADONNA (#3) (\$10.49) From the author of Snow White Red Handed (#1) (\$9.99) and Cinderella Six Feet Under (#2) (\$10.49), a beauty must solve a beastly murder.

**CHAPMAN, BRENDA stonechi** TUMBLED GRAVES (#3) (\$14.99) When Adele Delaney and her daughter, Violet, go missing, Kala Stonechild and Paul Gundersund end up investigating. Juggling personal troubles and what turns out to be a complicated, dangerous case is never easy. On the second day of the investigation, Adele's body turns up, dumped on the shoulder of the highway with no sign of her daughter. Her husband, Ivo, denies any involvement with either his wife's death or their child's disappearance, but not everyone is convinced. As the investigation unfolds, Stonechild learns that Adele was once entangled with a Montreal biker gang and heads to Quebec to in-

investigate further. It only gets more involved and complicated.

**CLARK, MARY HIGGINS** DEATH WEARS A BEAUTY MASK AND OTHER STORIES (\$10.99) A collection of stories written over the author's forty-year writing career, including a previously unpublished short story that was forty years in the making.

**CLEELAND, ANNE** MURDER IN HINDSIGHT (#3) (\$8.99) The victims are all criminals who eluded justice—until they ran afoul of an avenger whose modus operandi is a bullet to the back of the head. The key to the vigilante's identity lies in connecting the cold cases to an event that may have triggered retribution after all these years. And that's exactly what Acton and Doyle, two of Scotland Yard's finest, are attempting to do as they pursue this self-appointed judge, jury, and executioner. An excellent series according to Marian, start with Murder in Thrall (#1) and Murder in Retribution (#2) (\$8.99 each).

**COLLINS, MAX** A quarry QUARRY'S LIST (#2), QUARRY'S DEAL (#3) aka dealer and QUARRY'S CUT (#4) aka slasher (\$12.95 each). Three early Quarry novels, first published in the mid-70s.

**CONNOLLY, JOHN parker** KILLING KIND (#3) (\$15 remaindered) First published in 2001... The body of Grace Peltier, a brilliant Ph.D. candidate, is found in the front seat of her car on a back road in northern Maine. No one wants to believe it was suicide—not her father, not former U.S. senator Jack Mercier, and not private detective Charlie Parker, who has been hired to investigate the young woman's untimely death. But when a mass grave is accidentally discovered nearby, revealing the grim truth behind the disappearance of a religious community known as the Aroostook Baptists, Parker realizes that their deaths and the violent passing of Grace Peltier are part of the same mystery, one that has its roots in her family history and in the origins of the shadowy organization known as the Fellowship. An excellent albeit very dark series. Persist and you will be rewarded. Every Living Thing (#1) (\$18.99) is the definition of dark.

**CONNOLLY, SHEILA cork** TURN FOR THE BAD (#4) (\$10.49) After calling Ireland home for six months, Boston expat Maura Donovan still has a lot to learn about Irish ways—and Sullivan's Pub is her classroom. Maura didn't only inherit a business, she inherited a tight-knit community. And when a tragedy strikes, it's the talk of the pub. A local farmer, out for a stroll on the beach with his young son, has mysteriously disappeared. Did he drown? Kill himself? The child can say only that he saw a boat.

**COOPER, AMANDA teapot** GRIM STEEPER (#3) (\$10.49) Mid-October in the charming Finger Lakes town of Gracious Grove means it's time for the annual Fall Fling Townwide Tea Party. Sophie Taylor would like to share her enjoyment of the event with her sort-of boyfriend, English teacher Jason Murphy, but Jason's dean has accused him of falsifying grades to help an athlete at the local college. Steamed and stressed, Jason shows up the night of the party with bags under his eyes. But the dean shows up under Sophie's Japanese Maple later that night, murdered, uh oh.

**CRAIG, JAMES carlyle** TIME OF DEATH (#2) aka never apologise never explain (\$14.99) Sequel to London Calling (#1) (\$14.99) now available under this alternate titles. Looking for a gritty, racy new police series set in London? "Brilliant", says Marian,

**CUDMORE, LIBBY** BIG REWIND (\$18.50) When a mix tape destined for her friend KitKat accidentally arrives in Jett Bennett's mailbox, Jett doesn't think twice about it—even in the age of iTunes and Spotify, the hipster residents of the Barter Street district of Brooklyn are in a constant competition to see who can be the most retro. But when Jett finds KitKat dead on her own kitchen floor, she suspects the tape might be more than just a quirky collection of lovelorn ballads. And when KitKat's boyfriend, Bronco, is arrested for her murder, Jett and her best friend, Sid, set out on an epic urban quest through strip joints and record stores, vegan bakeries and basement nightclubs, to discover who the real killer is. However, the further Jett digs into KitKat's past, the more she discovers about her own left-behind love life—and the mysterious man whose song she still clings to...

**DALY, ELIZABETH gamadge** DEATH AND LETTERS (#15) (\$20.00) First published in 1950, the second-last featuring Henry Gamadge, antiquarian book dealer.

**DEMILLE, NELSON corey** RADIANT ANGEL (#7) (\$19.49) John Corey has left the Anti-Terrorist Task Force and returned home to New York City, taking a job with the Diplomatic Surveillance Group. Although Corey's new assignment with the DSG—surveilling Russian diplomats working at the U.N. Mission—is thought to be "a quiet end," he is more than happy to be out from under the thumb of the FBI and free from the bureaucracy of office life. But Corey realizes something the U.S. government doesn't: The all-too-real threat of a newly resurgent Russia.

**DOUGLAS-HOME, MARK** SEA DETECTIVE (\$16.99) Cal McGill is an Edinburgh-based oceanographer, environmentalist and one-of-a-kind investigator. Using his knowledge of the waves—ocean currents, prevailing winds, shipping records—McGill can track where objects have come from, or where they've gone. It's a unique skill that

can help solve all sorts of mysteries. Such as when two severed feet wash up miles apart on two different islands off the coast of Scotland. Most strangely, forensic tests reveal that the feet belong to the same body. As Cal McGill investigates, he unravels a web of corruption, exploitation and violence, which threatens many lives across the globe—very soon including his own.

**DOYLE/SICILIANO, SAM** WHITE WORM (\$12.95) The further adventures of Sherlock Holmes. A journey to Whitby heralds the start of a new case for Holmes and Dr. Henry Vernier. Their client is in love, but a mysterious letter has warned him of the dangers of the romance. The object of his affection is said to be under a thousand-year-old druidic curse, doomed to take the form of a gigantic snake. Locals speak of a green glow in the woods at night, and a white apparition amongst the trees. Is there sorcery at work, or is a human hand behind these terrors?

**DURBRIDGE, FRANCIS temple** PAUL TEMPLE AND THE MADISON CASE (\$16.99) Paul and Steve plan to relax and take in some fresh sea air on board a luxurious trans-Atlantic liner ... that is until they meet the elusive Sam Portland. After the innocent introduction, grave danger lies ahead for the couple. First published in 1988.

**FERRIS, MONICA** DARNED IF YOU DO (#18) (\$10.49) After a tree falls on Tom Riordan's house, landing him in the hospital, the police discover a mountain of junk piled high in his home. Locals in Excelsior, Minnesota—including Betsy Devonshire and her Crewel World Monday Bunch—offer to help with the cleanup while Tom recuperates. But when Tom is found murdered in his hospital bed, the sole heir to his property—his cousin Valentina—becomes the number one suspect. Betsy believes there's more to the case than meets the eye, but finding clues to the killer's identity in the clutter Tom left behind will be like looking for a needle in a haystack.

**FINDER, JOSEPH** PARANOIA (\$11.99) Adam Cassidy is twenty-six and a low level employee at a high-tech corporation who hates his job. When he manipulates the system to do something nice for a friend, he finds himself charged with a crime. Corporate Security gives him a choice: prison—or become a spy in the headquarters of their chief competitor, Trion Systems. They train him and feed him inside information. Now at Trion, he's a star, skyrocketing to the top. He finds he has talents he never knew he possessed. He's rich, drives a Porsche, lives in a fabulous apartment, and works directly for the CEO. He's dating the girl of his dreams. His life is perfect. All he has to do to keep it that way is betray everyone he cares about and everything he believes in.

**FLANDERS, JUDITH** MURDER OF MAGPIES (#1) (\$18.50) It's just another day at the office for London book editor Samantha "Sam" Clair. Checking jacket copy for howlers, wondering how to break it to her star novelist that her latest effort is utterly unpublishable, lunch scheduled with gossip author Kit Lowell, whose new book will dish the juicy dirt on a recent fashion industry scandal. Little does she know the trouble Kit's book will cause—before it even goes to print. When police Inspector Field turns up at the venerable offices of Timmins & Ross, asking questions about a package addressed to Sam, she knows something is wrong. Now Sam's nine-to-five life is turned upside down as she finds herself propelled into a criminal investigation. Someone doesn't want Kit's manuscript published and unless Sam can put the pieces together in time, they'll do anything to stop it. A lovely, funny debut novel. *A JD's Pick.*

**FLEMING, IAN** CASINO ROYALE (#1) (\$23.00) New editions of the Bond novels

**FLUKE, JOANNE swensen** DOUBLE FUDGE BROWNIE MURDER (#18) (\$8.99) Hannah Swensen, on trial for her involvement in a tragic accident, hardly has time to think about her bakery—let alone the town's most recent murder... Hannah is eager to clear her name once and for all, but her troubles only double when she finds the judge bludgeoned to death with his own gavel—and guess who is the number one suspect. Now on trial in the court of public opinion, she sets out in search of the culprit.

**FYFIELD, FRANCES painted** PAINTED SMILE (#1) (\$22.99 trade paperback, \$32.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**GATTIS, RYAN** ALL INVOLVED (\$19.99) Not all the deaths that occurred in the days after the jury acquitted three white Los Angeles Police Department officers charged with using excessive force to subdue Rodney King. Some were committed by those who used the chaos to viciously settle old scores.

**GRADY, JAMES** SIX DAYS OF THE CONDOR (#1) (\$20.00) First published in 1974 and the basis for the Robert Redford movie, The Three Days of the Condor. Maybe the budget didn't stretch to the full six days?

**GRAY, ALEX lorimer** KEEP THE MIDNIGHT OUT (#12) (\$16.00) When the body of a red-haired young man is washed up on the shore of the beautiful Isle of Mull, Detective Superintendent Lorimer's tranquil holiday away from the gritty streets of Glasgow is rudely interrupted. The body has been bound with twine in a ghoulishly unnatural position and strongly reminds Lorimer of another murder: a twenty-year old Glasgow case that he failed to solve as a newly fledged detective constable and which has haunted him ever since.

**GREMILLON, HELENE** CASE OF LISANDRA P (\$21.00) Buenos Aires, 1987.

When a beautiful young woman named Lisandra is found dead at the foot of a six-story building, her husband, a psychoanalyst, is immediately arrested for her murder. Convinced of Vittorio's innocence, one of his patients, Eva Maria, is drawn into the investigation seemingly by chance. As she combs through secret recordings of Vittorio's therapy sessions in search of the killer—could it be the powerful government figure? the jealous woman? the musician who's lost his reason to live? Eva Maria must confront her most painful memories, and some of the darkest moments in Argentinian history.

**HARRIS, OLIVER belsey** HOLLOW MAN (#1) (\$25.00) Waking up on Hampstead Heath not far from a crashed squad car, Detective Nick Belsey wants out—out of London and out of the endless complications of his life. When Alexei Devereux, a wealthy hermit, vanishes, leaving behind a suicide note and his Porsche, Belsey discovers an opportunity—a new identity and a fortune—waiting for the taking. But he picks the wrong guy to impersonate; there are others who share the detective's interest in Devereux, including Scotland Yard. A dead rich man with suspicious financial holdings is bound to have some dangerous ties and a few ruthless enemies. Now, Belsey and his clever plan are about to be overshadowed by far more ambitious players with their own brilliant, and deadly scheme.

**HARRIS, OLIVER belsey** DEEP SHELTER (#2) (\$25.00) Trouble once again finds Nick—Detective Nick Belsey, one of London's sharpest but most unprincipled investigators, that is—when he takes a date to an abandoned bomb shelter buried beneath the heart of London. One minute the young woman is there, and the next, she's gone, mysteriously vanishing into the dark labyrinth of secret tunnels. A seasoned cop with a bad reputation, Nick knows that if he reports her disappearance, he'll be the prime suspect. Instead, he's going to find her. It's not just her life at stake—it's his, too. Determined to discover who is down in those forgotten tunnels and how far this secret network of underground passages extends, he plunges headfirst into the investigation—and into a dangerous game of cat and mouse with a ruthless enemy who would rather let an innocent woman die than reveal Cold War secrets.

**HARRIS, ROBERT rome trilogy** Dictator (#3) (\$25.00) The concluding part of the Cicero Trilogy that began with Imperium (\$12 remaindered paperback), carried on to Conspirata aka Lustrom (#2) (\$24). Aged 48, Marcus Cicero, the greatest orator of his time, is to all appearances a broken man. Out of power, exiled to the eastern Mediterranean with his faithful secretary, Tiro, separated from his wife and children, his possessions confiscated, he spends his days tormented by his failure. But, to quote one of his own famous aphorisms: 'while there's life there's hope'. By promising to support his political enemy, Caesar, he manages to win his return to Italy. Once home, he gradually fights his way back: first in the law courts, then in the senate, and finally by the power of his pen, until at last, for one brief and glorious period, he is once again the dominant figure in Rome.

**HEYER, GEORGETTE** CHRISTMAS PARTY aka envious casca (\$16.99) It is no ordinary Christmas at Lexham Manor. And the mood is anything but festive. Six holiday guests find themselves the suspects in a murder inquiry when the old Scrooge who owns the substantial estate, Nathaniel Herriard, is found stabbed in the back. Whilst the delicate matter of inheritance could be the key to this crime, the real conundrum is how any of the suspects could have entered the locked room to commit this atrocity. For Inspector Hemingway of Scotland Yard, the investigation is complicated by the fact that every guest is hiding something—throwing all of their testimonies into question and casting suspicion far and wide...

**HJORTH & ROSENFELDT bergman** DARK SECRETS (#1) aka Sebastian bergman (\$12 remaindered) It all begins with a call to the police. A sixteen-year-old boy, Roger Eriksson, has gone missing in the town of Västerås. A search is organized and a group of young scouts makes an awful discovery in a marsh: Roger is dead. Meanwhile, Sebastian Bergman, psychologist, criminal profiler and one of Sweden's top experts on serial killers, is in Västerås to settle his mother's estate following her death. Sebastian has withdrawn from police work after the death of his wife and daughter in the 2004 tsunami. When the Crime Investigation Department asks Sebastian for his help in Roger's case, his arrogant manner at first alienates the rest of the team. Pushing forward, though, they begin to make disturbing discoveries about the private school Roger attended...prequel to Man Who Watched Women (#2) (\$27.99).

**HOLT, JONATHAN carnivia** ABDUCTION (#2) (\$15 remaindered, \$24 new) Sequel to Abomination (#1) (\$12 remaindered (limited quantities), \$16.99 new) and prequel to Absolution (#3) (\$21.99) An excellent series. See *Marian's Picks*.

**HUGHES, MARY ELLEN pickle** SCENE OF THE BRINE (3) (\$10.49) Business is booming at Piper's Picklings in Cloverdale, New York. But not all is sweet in the life of Piper's number one customer and friend, local caterer Sugar Heywood. Sugar is dating wealthy realtor Jeremy Porter, but his family doesn't approve. After their unscrupulous accountant finds some dirt on Sugar, the family quickly urges Jeremy to throw her out like rotten fruit. Things are further spoiled after the accountant is found poisoned, and all evidence points to Sugar's son, Zach. There is a spicy pickled carrot

recipe that Marian has her eye on!

**HURLEY, GRAHAM** suttle SINS OF THE FATHER (#3) (\$16.00) A rich old man, Rupert Moncrieff, is beaten to death in the silence of his West Country waterside mansion, his head hooded and his throat cut. His extended family are still living beneath his roof, each with their own room, their own story, their own ghosts, and their own motives for murder. And in this world of darkness and dysfunction are the artefacts and memories of colonial atrocities that are returning to haunt them all. At the heart of the murder investigation is DS Jimmy Suttle who, along with his estranged journalist wife Lizzie, is fighting his own demons after the abduction and death of their young daughter, Grace. But who killed Rupert Moncrieff? And what secrets is the house holding onto that could unravel this whole investigation?

**JAMES, MIRANDA** librarian ARSENIC AND OLD BOOKS (#6) (\$10.49) Lucinda Beckwith Long, the mayor of Athena, Mississippi, has donated a set of Civil War-era diaries to the archives of Athena College. She would like librarian Charlie Harris to preserve and substantiate them as a part of the Long family legacy—something that could benefit her son, Beck, as he prepares to campaign for the state senate. Others want to get their hand on the diaries, and not always for the noblest of reasons. When murder strikes, it's up to Charlie and his Maine Coon cat, Diesel, to figure out why the diaries were worth killing for before he too reaches his final chapter.

**JAMES, PETER** grace DEAD MAN'S FOOTSTEPS (#4), DEAD TOMORROW (#5), DEAD MAN'S TIME (#9), and WANT YOU DEAD (#11) (\$16.99 each) Just to remind you that this series is still around, well worth reading and we'd love to get you started with, say, Dead Simple (#1) (\$16.99).

**JANES, J ROBERT** SLEEPER (\$22.95) David Ashby spent the last war killing Germans, and the years after falling in love with one. By the time Hitler comes to power, David has a half-German daughter, Karen, whom he loves more than life itself. So when Europe begins to slide toward war, and it becomes unsafe for an American to stay in the Fatherland, David does the only thing he can: He flees—and takes his daughter with him to England. But Hitler will not part with a daughter of the 3rd Reich so easily. German intelligence sends a sleeper, a dormant agent awakened, to finish off David and recover his child, drawing the mild-mannered schoolteacher—and the British intelligence services—into the thick of a secret war. Caught between two armies of spies, David will do whatever it takes to preserve Karen's freedom. From the author of the St. Cyr and Kohler series.

**JARDINE, QUINTIN** skinner HOUR OF DARKNESS (#24) (\$15.99) The body of a murdered woman is found washed up on Cramond Island near the mouth of the River Forth. Days later detectives are called to a flat in Edinburgh; the kitchen is covered in blood, and the occupier is missing. When the name of the woman from Cramond Island is revealed, it stirs unwelcome memories for those who knew her, Chief Constable Bob Skinner most of all. Now based in Glasgow, he has no reason to become involved in the case. Yet he does, unwittingly setting in motion a course that leads him to the toughest choice of his life, putting him in the midst of a personal nightmare, both life threatening and career changing.

**JOY, DAVID** WHERE ALL LIGHT TENDS TO GO (\$21.00) The area surrounding Cashiers, North Carolina, is home to people of all kinds, but the world that Jacob McNeely lives in is crueler than most. His father runs a methodically organized meth ring, with local authorities on the dime to turn a blind eye to his dealings. Having dropped out of high school and cut himself off from his peers, Jacob has been working for this father for years, all on the promise that his payday will come eventually. The only joy he finds comes from reuniting with Maggie, his first love, and a girl clearly bound for bigger and better things than their hardscrabble town. Jacob has always been resigned to play the cards that were dealt him, but when a fatal mistake changes everything, he's faced with a choice: stay and appease his father, or leave the mountains with the girl he loves. In a place where blood is thicker than water and hope takes a back seat to fate, Jacob wonders if he can muster the strength to rise above the only life he's ever known. **Daniel Woodrell** calls it "Lyrical, propulsive, dark and compelling. Joy knows well the grit and gravel of his world, the soul and blemishes of the place."

**KING, STEPHEN** 11/22/1963 (\$12.99) Life can turn on a dime—or stumble into the extraordinary, as it does for Jake Epping, a high school English teacher in a Maine town. While grading essays by his GED students, Jake reads a gruesome, enthralling piece penned by janitor Harry Dunning: fifty years ago, Harry somehow survived his father's sledgehammer slaughter of his entire family. Jake is blown away...but an even more bizarre secret comes to light when Jake's friend Al, owner of the local diner, enlists Jake to take over the mission that has become his obsession—to prevent the Kennedy assassination. How? By stepping through a portal in the diner's storeroom, and into the era of Ike and Elvis, of big American cars, sock hops, and cigarette smoke... Finding himself in warmhearted Jodie, Texas, Jake begins a new life. But all turns in the road lead to a troubled loner named Lee Harvey Oswald. The course of history is about to be rewritten...and when you're done with this "portal" try Shining Girls (\$12)

by **Lauren Beukes**.

**LACKBERG, CAMILLA hedstro** ICE CHILD (#9) (\$22.99) One of four girls, gone missing from nearby towns, is found wandering in the woods, but the outcome is not a happy one. The Fjallbacka police, led by Det. Patrick Hedstrom, are struggling to find any leads. Patrick's wife, crime writer Erica Falck, is researching an old murder case that unearths some surprising connections to the present case and the investigation veers into a whole different direction.

**LANCET, BARRY brodie** TOKYO KILL (#2) (\$20.99) After wading through the tragedy of San Francisco's Japantown murders, (Japantown (#1) (\$18.99)), struggling antiques dealer Jim Brodie is back in Japan for a well-earned vacation. But checking in at the PI firm Brodie inherited from his father, he immediately acquires a new case: a Japanese World War II veteran shows up and spins a dark story connected to the war and a pair of violent home invasions committed in the Tokyo only days earlier. Brodie agrees to provide protection for the old warrior, but soon an unexpected murder shocks him and his crew, and they begin a wild ride through the worlds of war atrocities. Pacific Burn (#3) (\$34) is the new entry in the series. A great series.

**LAUKKANEN, OWEN stevens** STOLEN ONES (#4) (\$21.00) Cass County, Minnesota: A sheriff's deputy steps out of a diner on a rainy summer evening, and a few minutes later, he's lying dead in the mud. When BCA agent Kirk Stevens arrives on the scene, he discovers local authorities have taken into custody a single suspect: A hysterical young woman found sitting by the body, holding the deputy's own gun. She has no ID, speaks no English. A mystery woman. The mystery only deepens from there, as Stevens and Carla Windermere, his partner in the new joint BCA-FBI violent crime task force, find themselves on the trail of a massive international kidnapping and prostitution operation, the stolen ones.

**LAWRENCE, MARY bianca** DEATH OF AN ALCHEMIST (#2) (\$16.95) Bianca Goddard's husband is sick and death will not be far behind. The only hope is alchemist Ferris Stannum who is developing his Elixir of Life. But someone has strangled him and stolen the fruits of his research. So, Bianca's job is clear: solve the murder, find the research and save her husband. Sequel to The Alchemist's Daughter (#2) (\$16.95).

**LUDLOW, JACK road to war** BURNING SKY (#1) (\$17.99) 1935: Cal Jardine is a soldier of fortune. Forced to flee Hamburg, where he has been smuggling out Jews, he is recruited by a secretive British committee to smuggle guns from Romania into Abyssinia, threatened with an Italian invasion.

Taken to the Horn of Africa they are then transported over the harsh landscape, a slave trader's route full of bandits, into the hands of the Ethiopian Army. On his travels Jardine acquires more baggage than he cares for, including a beautiful, but difficult American female in search of her archaeologist mother, a drunken British reporter and a daredevil French flyer. The Ethiopians are ill-equipped to face the invading Italian army, equipped with tanks, bombers, and poison gas. Trained for war, can Jardine walk away or will he be drawn into a bloody conflict against massive odds, and still save those who now depend on him?

**LYLE, DIXIE** DEADLY TAIL (#4) (\$9.99) Foxtrot has seen a lot of strange things as assistant to billionaire Zelda Zoransky at her wacky mansion. And that includes her telepathic cat Tango and ectoplasmic pooch Whiskey. So it's no surprise to find a horde of zombies lurching across the lawn—even if they are just actors in a horror movie that's filming on the mansion grounds. The special effects look pretty convincing. But all that fake blood doesn't fool Whiskey, who quickly sniffs out the truth: one of those corpses is real...

**MACBAIN/MCBAIN, ED** CUT ME IN (\$12.95) Maybe no one liked Del Gilbert a whole lot, not the men he ruthlessly did business with, not the women who discovered his other lovers, not even his partner in the Gilbert and Blake literary agency—me. But when I found him shot to death on the floor of his office, I had no choice. I had to track down the person responsible. And not just to lay Del to rest, either. Next to his body, the office safe was wide open, and a contract worth millions was missing...

**MACBRIDE, STUART logan** IN THE COLD DARK GROUND (#10) (\$21.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**MACGOWAN/MCGOWAN, CLAIRE maguire** SILENT DEAD (#3) (\$22.99) The officers at the crime scene know exactly who the victim is. Doyle was one of five suspected bombers who caused the deaths of sixteen people. The remaining four are also missing and when a second body is found, decapitated, it's clear they are being killed by the same methods their victims suffered. Forensic psychologist Paula Maguire is assigned the case but she is up against the clock—both personally and professionally. With moral boundaries blurred between victim and perpetrator, will be Paula be able to find those responsible? After all, even killers deserve justice, don't they?

**MIZUSHIMA, MARGARET k9** KILLING TRAIL (#1) (\$21.50) When a young girl is found dead in the mountains outside Timber Creek, life-long resident Officer Mattie Cobb and her partner, K-9 police dog Robo, are assigned to the case that has

rocked the small Colorado town. See *Marian's Picks*.

**NEVILLE, STUART** GHOSTS OF BELFAST (#1) aka twelve (\$9.99) A new, cheaper edition of this fabulous read. Northern Ireland's Troubles may be over, but peace has not erased the crimes of the past. Gerry Fegan, a former paramilitary contract killer, is haunted by the ghosts of the people he slaughtered. Every night, at the point of losing his mind, he drowns their screams in drink. But it's not enough. He has to appease the ghosts. Just read it.

**PAGE, KATHERINE HALL** faith fairchild BODY IN THE BIRCHES (#22) (\$9.99) The Fourth of July fireworks are just beginning on Sanpere Island. But after the celebrations are over, Faith Fairchild is shocked to discover a body in the woods near The Birches, an early twentieth-century "cottage." The body is identified as The Birches' housekeeper, who seems to have succumbed to a heart attack...another investigation for our intrepid Faith.

**PARSONS, KELLY** DOING HARM (\$11.99) There are many ways to die in a hospital... being sick is only one of them. Chief resident Steve Mitchell is the quintessential surgeon: ambitious, intelligent, confident. Charged with molding a group of medical trainees into doctors, and in line for a coveted job, Steve's future is bright. But then a patient mysteriously dies, and it quickly becomes clear that a killer is on the loose in his hospital. A killer set on playing a deadly game with Steve. A killer holding information that could ruin his career and marriage. Now, alone and under a cloud of suspicion, Steve must discover a way to outsmart his opponent and save the killer's next victim before the cycle repeats itself again and again.

**PATTERSON, JAMES** private PRIVATE VEGAS (#9) (\$11.99) Las Vegas is a city of contradictions and the perfect location for Lester Olsen's lucrative business. He gets to treat gorgeous, young women to five-star restaurants, splashy shows, and limo rides—and then he teaches them how to kill. Private Jack Morgan spends most of his time in Los Angeles, but a hunt for two criminals leads him to the city of sin—and to a murder ring that is more seductively threatening than anything he's witnessed before.

**PIKE, PENNY** food truck DEATH OF A BAD APPLE (#3) (\$10.49) Anxious to take a break from bustling San Francisco, Darcy and her Aunt Abby pack up the food truck and head for the apple festival at Apple Valley, California. Aunt Abby is sure her almond apple tarts will be a hit and Darcy wants to collect more recipes for her food truck cookbook. But when a fellow guest at the Enchanted Apple Inn is pared-down—and the Inn's owner ends up the prime suspect—Darcy must peel away the layers of the mystery. Because an apple a day certainly isn't keeping the killer away!

**PRICE, RICHARD** WHITES (\$18.50) Back in the run-and-gun days of the mid-1990s, when a young Billy Graves worked in the South Bronx as part of an aggressive anti-crime unit known as the Wild Geese, he made headlines by accidentally shooting a ten-year-old boy while struggling with an angel-dusted berserker on a crowded street. Branded as a loose cannon by his higher-ups, Billy spent years enduring one dead-end posting after another. Now in his early forties, he has somehow survived and become a sergeant in Manhattan Night Watch, a small team of detectives who are little more than a set-up crew for the incoming shift. But after years in police purgatory, Billy is content simply to do his job. Then comes a call that changes everything.

**QUEEN, ELLERY** ROMAN HAT MYSTERY (\$26) and FRENCH POWDER MYSTERY (\$27) The first two Ellery Queen novels, first published in 1929 and 1930, respectively. Holy blast from the past, Batman.

**ROBB, J D** DEVOTED IN DEATH (\$10.49) When Lieutenant Eve Dallas examines a fresh body in a seedy alleyway in downtown Manhattan, the victim's injuries are so extensive that she almost misses the clue. Carved into the skin is the shape of a heart—initials inside reading "E" and "D". In Arkansas, Ella-Loo and her recently released ex-con boyfriend, Darryl, don't ever intend to part again. So they hit the road, but then things get a little messy and they wind up killing someone—an experience that stokes a fierce, wild desire in Ella-Loo. A desire for Darryl. And a desire to kill again. As they cross state lines on their way to New York to find the life they think they deserve, they leave a trail of evil behind them. But now they've landed in the jurisdiction of Lt. Dallas and her team at the New York Police and Security Department. And, with her husband Roarke at her side, Eve has every intention of hunting them down and giving them what they truly deserve.

**ROSS, ANN B** julia MISS JULIA SPEAKS HER MIND (#1) (\$18.50) Miss Julia, a recently bereaved and newly wealthy widow, is only slightly bemused when one Hazel Marie Puckett appears at her door with a youngster in tow and unceremoniously announces that the child is the bastard son of Miss Julia's late husband. Suddenly, this longtime church member and pillar of her small Southern community finds herself in the centre of an unseemly scandal—and the guardian of a wan nine-year-old whose mere presence turns her life upside down. A delightful novel, says Marian, and oh joy, the first of seventeen.

**RYAN, ANNELISE** mattie STIFF COMPETITION (#7) (\$8.99) Every fall, hunting season in Sorenson, Wisconsin, leads to some accidental injuries. Deputy coro-

ner Mattie Winston just hopes the hunters don't bring any more business to her office. But somebody seems to have declared open season on land developers. One real estate developer who's recently come to town has been found dead in the woods with an arrow through his neck. Now it's up to Mattie to get to the bottom of the killing. That might be easier if she wasn't also hunting for Detective Hurley's teenage daughter, Emily, who has suddenly disappeared. With a homicidal William Tell out on the loose, Mattie is desperate to find Emily before the killer notches another arrow.

**RYAN, SOFIE second chance** WHISKER OF TROUBLE (#3) (\$10.49) Spring has come to charming North Harbor, Maine, and with the new season comes a new haul for Second Chance, the shop where Sarah Grayson sells lovingly refurbished and repurposed items. Sarah is turning her keen eye to the estate of collector Edison Hall, hoping for fabulous finds for Second Chance—but when her rescue cat Elvis discovers a body in the kitchen, everything goes paws up. The body belongs to an appraiser who had been hired to check out Edison's wine collection.

**SEARS, MICHAEL stafford** LONG WAY DOWN (#3) (\$12.99) Two years in a federal prison has changed Jason Stafford, but one thing it has taught him as a financial investigator is how to detect a lie. Though Philip Haley has been indicted for insider trading on his own company, Stafford believes him when he says he's been set up. It does make him dangerous to be around, though. The deeper Stafford investigates, the more secrets he uncovers, secrets people would kill for. A terrific series.

**SENDKER, JAN-PHILIPP** WHISPERING SHADOWS (#1) (\$22.00) In this first book of the Rising Dragon series, "explore a side of Hong Kong tourists rarely experience" (*Kirkus Reviews*) as an expat journalist tries to crack a murder case in the "darkly beautiful, heart-wrenching" (*Booklist*, starred review) thriller set in China.

**SIMENON, GEORGES** CELLARS OF THE MAJESTIC (\$14.00) Maigret investigates the murder of Mrs. Clark, the wife of a wealthy American industrialist, whose strangled body is found in the basement of an upscale hotel near the Champs-Élysées. Maigret's inquiries take him from the endless corridors of the Hotel Majestic to the countryside of the Bois de Boulogne and sun-drenched Cannes, into a world of prostitution, drug addiction, and blackmail.

**SMITH, ALEXANDER MCCALL scotland** THE REVOLVING DOOR OF LIFE (\$21) Excitement abounds when the revolving door of life brings fresh faces and hilarious new developments to the residents of 44 Scotland Street.

**SWEAZY, LARRY D** THOUSAND FALLING CROWS (\$17.00) Sonny Burton was forced to retire from the Texas Rangers after taking a bullet from Bonnie Parker in a shoot-out. The bullet so damaged Sonny's right arm that he had to have it amputated. While Sonny struggles with recuperating and tries to get used to the idea of living a life with only one arm, Aldo Hernandez, the hospital's janitor, asks Sonny to help find his daughter and bring her back home. She has got herself mixed up with a couple of brothers involved in a string of robberies. Sonny agrees to help, but is more concerned about a wholly different criminal in town who has taken to killing young women and leaving them in local fields for crows to feast on. Just as Sonny is able to track down Aldo's daughter, he comes to an uncomfortable realization about who might be responsible for the string of murders and races to nab the killer before another girl is left to the crows.

**SWIERCZYNSKI, DUANE** CANARY (\$17.99) Honours student Sarie Holland is busted by the local police while doing a favour for her boyfriend. Unwilling to betray him but desperate to avoid destroying her future, Sarie has no choice but to become a "CI"—a confidential informant. Sarie turns out to be the perfect CI: a quick study with a shockingly keen understanding of the criminal mind. But Philly narc cop, Wildey, desperate for results, pushes too hard and inadvertently sends the nineteen-year-old into a death trap, leaving Sarie hunted by crooked cops and killers alike with nothing to save her—except what she's learned during her harrowing weeks as an informant. Which is bad news for the police and the underworld. Because when it comes to payback, CI #1373 turns out to be a *very* quick study.

**THOMAS, SAMUEL midwife** WITCH HUNTER'S TALE (#3) (\$18.50) Winter has come to the city of York, and with it the threat of witchcraft. As women and children sicken and die, midwife Bridget Hodgson is pulled against her will into a full-scale witch-hunt that threatens to devour all in its path, guilty and innocent alike. Bridget, accompanied once again by her deputy Martha Hawkins and her nephew Will Hodgson, finds herself playing a lethal game of cat and mouse against the most dangerous men in York, as well as her sworn enemy Rebecca Hooke. As the trials begin, and the noose begins to tighten around her neck, Bridget must answer the question: How far will she go to protect the people she loves?

**VALLERE, DIANE costume** DISGUISE TO DIE FOR (#1) (\$10.49) No sooner does former magician's assistant Margo Tamblyn return home to Proper City, Nevada, to run Disguise DeLimit, her family's costume shop, than she gets her first big order. Wealthy nuisance Blitz Manners needs forty costumes for a detective-themed birthday bash. As for Blitz himself, his Sherlock Holmes is to die for—literally—when, in the

middle of the festivities, Margo's friend and party planner Ebony Welles is caught brandishing a carving knife over a very dead Blitz. For Margo, clearing Ebony's name is anything but elementary, especially after Ebony flees town. Now Margo is left to play real-life detective in a town full of masked motives, cloaked secrets, and veiled vendettas. But as she soon learns, even a killer disguise can't hide a murderer in plain sight for long.

**VARIOUS/JAKUBOWSKI, MAXIM** MAMMOTH BOOK OF JACK THE RIPPER STORIES (\$18.95) Jack the Ripper is one of the most infamous serial killers in history. His gruesome murders and ability to escape capture have influenced everything from films, music, and literature to true crime 'Ripperologists' who, to this day, seek to uncover the killer's identity. In this interesting collection, leading horror, crime, romance, and science fiction authors contribute speculative fiction on the life and times of Jack the Ripper.

**WHITE, RANDY WAYNE ford** CUBA STRAITS (#22) (\$12.99) Doc Ford's old friend General Juan Rivera has gone into the business of high-profile collectibles, but when he manages to obtain a collection of letters written by Fidel Castro between 1960 and 1962 to a secret girlfriend, it's not a matter of money anymore. Rivera has stumbled way out of his depth. Those letters contain a secret that someone cannot allow to be made public. A lot happened between Cuba and the United States in those years. Many men died. A few more will hardly be noticed.

**WIEHL, LIS** DEADLY BUSINESS (\$9.99) When a twenty-two-year-old convict walks into the courtroom, his eyes confirm what Mia Quinn already guesses: he blames her for his conviction. In seconds, he knocks her to the ground and holds a razor blade to her throat. While she manages to escape without injury, it's just one more reminder that Mia's job prosecuting Seattle's most dangerous criminals is far from low risk. As a single mom, the last thing Mia wants is for her work to follow her home or discover that it already has. Now Detective Charlie Carlson is suggesting the very thing Mia doesn't want to believe—that her accountant husband's deadly car accident was no accident at all. When Mia and Charlie encounter resistance to reopening the case, they take the investigation into their own hands. And they find much more than they bargained for.

**WILLIAMS, TIMOTHY guadelo** HONEST FOLK OF GUADELOUPE (#2) (\$15.95) April 1990: French-Algerian judge Anne Marie Laveaud has been living and working in the French Caribbean *département* of Guadeloupe for more than a decade, but her days are still full of surprises. She is only just starting to investigate the suspicious suicide of a high-profile environmental activist and media personality when she is pulled off the case. Is it because she was getting too close to the truth? But the new case she's been assigned takes precedence. The naked body of a white woman has been discovered on a beach. The victim's remains offer no clues about her final hours—she was found without any of her belongings, and it seems she had been dead at least three days before anyone spotted her corpse. What turned this woman's vacation in paradise into a final nightmare? As always, the story of a murdered white woman attracts international media attention. The pressure is on Anne Marie to solve the murder quickly, before bad publicity destroys the island's all-important tourist industry. Start with the wonderful Another Sun (#1) (\$9.99).

**WISHART, DAVID marcus** FINISHED BUSINESS (#16) (\$25.00) November, AD 40. When a wealthy consul's wife asks Corvinus to investigate the death of her uncle, killed by a block of falling masonry during renovations on his estate in the Vatican Hills, a skeptical Corvinus is inclined to agree with the general verdict of accidental death. But his investigations reveal clear evidence of foul play, as well as unearthing several skeletons among the closets of this well-to-do but highly dysfunctional family. Who could have wanted Lucius Surdinus dead?

**WOLF, DICK** ULTIMATUM (\$12.50) When Merritt Verlyn releases sensitive documents from the NYPD Intelligence Division to WikiLeaks, some of New York City's criminals gain access to Detective Jeremy Fisk's unlisted home address. Within hours, deadly assailants arrive looking for blood. Authorities arrest Verlyn, but the damage is done. Forced from his home and his bank accounts drained, Fisk asks Chay Maryland, a beautiful *New York Times* reporter, if she'll help him get close to the leaker. But Chay refuses to yield her sources. The investigation is nearly derailed when seemingly random shootings leave innocent people dead on the streets. When the authorities receive a message from someone named "Yodeler," who threatens to sacrifice a citizen every day until Verlyn is released, Fisk and Chay have no choice but to team up and discover what the leaker really knows. Can they find the mastermind before he wreaks havoc on a city paralyzed by fear?